

## A SIDE-BY-SIDE COMPARISON OF HOUSE GOP & DEMOCRATIC WORKER RELIEF PROVISIONS

	HOUSE GOP WORKER RELIEF PROVISIONS	HOUSE DEM. WORKER RELIEF PROVISIONS
Is there a guarantee for laid-off workers of federally-funded enhancements in the Unemployment Compensation system, including additional weeks of benefits for those who have exhausted their regular benefits?	<b>NO.</b> There is <u>no</u> guarantee of any federally-funded enhancements. Indeed, the provisions break with historical precedent by <u>not</u> guaranteeing additional weeks of benefits in all states during a downturn. Additional weeks of benefits would be provided only in states that elected to provide these benefits and finance them entirely from state unemployment accounts – something few states are likely to do.	<b>YES.</b> The provisions provide over the next 12 months the following enhancements in the Unemployment Compensation system: 1) providing up to an additional 26 weeks of benefits to those exhausting their rights to regular benefits; 2) providing coverage to certain unemployed workers not currently covered by the system; and 3) increasing all unemployment benefits by the greater of 25% or \$65 per week.
How much new federal funding is provided for expanded unemployment benefits for laid-off workers?	<b>NONE.</b> Provisions simply <u>speed up</u> transfer of \$9.2 billion already slated to be shifted from federal unemployment insurance trust funds to state unemployment accounts. States would not be required to use these funds to pay unemployment benefits. <u>CBO estimates that only \$2.3 billion of this would be spent on increased UI benefits in FY 2002.</u>	<b>\$30 Billion.</b> Provides an additional \$30 billion in federal funding in FY 2002 to make the three enhancements in the Unemployment Compensation system described above.
Are there meaningful provisions for providing health insurance coverage for laid-off workers?	<b>NO.</b> Simply provides an increase of \$3 billion in funding for the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) that states may use to provide health insurance for unemployed workers and their families -- only helping a small fraction.	<b>YES.</b> Subsidizes 75 percent of COBRA premium costs for a period of 12 months for laid-off workers qualifying for COBRA and creates a temporary state Medicaid option to cover low-income laid-off workers and those ineligible for COBRA.
How much new federal funding is provided for health insurance coverage for laid-off workers?	<b>\$3 Billion.</b> The \$3 billion in SSBG funds is completely inadequate -- providing <u>less than one-eighth</u> as much as the Democratic alternative for health insurance for laid-off workers.	<b>\$25 Billion.</b> Provides an additional \$25 billion in federal funding in FY 2002 to provide health insurance coverage for laid-off workers as described above.

## A SIDE-BY-SIDE COMPARISON OF BUSH & DEMOCRATIC WORKER RELIEF PROVISIONS

	<b>BUSH WORKER RELIEF PROVISIONS</b>	<b>HOUSE DEM. WORKER RELIEF PROVISIONS</b>
Is there a guarantee for laid-off workers of federally-funded enhancements in the Unemployment Compensation system, including additional weeks of benefits for those who have exhausted their regular benefits?	<b>MINIMAL.</b> The Bush provisions only provide additional weeks of federal benefits in a very limited number of states (estimated to be 10 to 20). This breaks with historical precedent by not guaranteeing additional weeks of federal benefits in <u>all</u> states during a downturn. Furthermore, Bush <u>fails</u> to include provisions to extend coverage to unemployed workers not covered by current system and increase the inadequate level of current benefits.	<b>YES.</b> The provisions provide over the next 12 months the following enhancements in the Unemployment Compensation system: 1) providing up to an additional 26 weeks of benefits to those exhausting their rights to regular benefits; 2) providing coverage to certain unemployed workers not currently covered by the system; and 3) increasing all unemployment benefits by the greater of 25% or \$65 per week.
How much new federal funding is provided for expanded unemployment benefits for laid-off workers?	<b>\$5 Billion.</b> The Labor Department estimates that the Bush provisions would result in only \$5 billion in additional unemployment benefits. This compares with the \$30 billion in the Democratic proposal and the \$35 billion in the last recession.	<b>\$30 Billion.</b> Provides an additional \$30 billion in federal funding in FY 2002 to make the three enhancements in the Unemployment Compensation system described above.
Are there meaningful provisions for providing health insurance coverage for laid-off workers?	<b>NO.</b> The provisions would simply provide \$3 billion for National Emergency Grants that could be used for health insurance, income supplements or job training. The Bush provisions making \$11 billion in “unspent” SCHIP funds available are <u>meaningless</u> because these funds are already committed for children’s health care needs.	<b>YES.</b> Subsidizes 75 percent of COBRA premium costs for a period of 12 months for laid-off workers qualifying for COBRA and creates a temporary state Medicaid option to cover low-income laid-off workers and those ineligible for COBRA.
How much new federal funding is provided for health insurance for unemployed workers?	<b>\$3 Billion.</b> The \$3 billion in National Emergency Grants is completely inadequate – providing <u>less than one-eighth</u> as much as the Democratic alternative for health insurance for laid-off workers.	<b>\$25 Billion.</b> Provides an additional \$25 billion in federal funding in FY 2002 to provide health insurance coverage for laid-off workers as described above.